

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

30 June 1979 to 30 June 1980

Compiled by R. B. SIBSON

First of all, a word of thanks to the 140 observers who contributed these notes, to the RRs who sifted and assessed them and to Brian Ellis who in my absence started to collate them. It is perhaps a little sad that the results of an arduous day in the field or in a bobbing boat may seem to end up as a few words on paper; but the satisfaction of finding something of note should live on in the mind of the finder. Moreover, as experience shows, well-documented notes gain in significance and acquire added value with the passage of time.

In the course of some 40 years, CSN have recorded not only the comings and goings of many migrants but also the changing status of many species, both endemic and neocolonial. White-faced Herons and Welcome Swallows are no longer headline news. Grey Teal and Coots do not evoke the excitement which once accompanied their discovery. Even Royal Spoonbills, Little Egrets and Cattle Egrets have lost something of their glamour, much as we still love to find and study them. In the South Island, the Spur-winged Plover is now accepted as part of the rural scene; in the North Island, it is greeted as a welcome stranger and proudly added to the local lists. Where will the Black-fronted Dotterel go next? Are Australian Little Grebes, and perhaps Hoary-headed Grebes, establishing themselves in an empty niche in the South Island on small lakes and farm dams where there are no native Dabchicks? What happened to the Australian Pelicans and Kestrels that visited us? When will the Tree Martin or perhaps some other enterprising invader start to breed in New Zealand?

These notes must be selective. Among other things, they should try to indicate how our breeding species are faring. Hence the need to count the gregarious birds such as terns, plovers, waders and some passerines, e.g. Brown Creeper, when they migrate or wander after the breeding season. Valuable information may also come from the study of birds where they are near the limits of their natural ranges, e.g. Caspians in Southland; White-fronted Terns in the Chathams; Yellow-nosed Albatrosses in the Bay of Plenty; Wrybills and SI Pied Oystercatchers in Northland to name but a few obvious examples.

The very informative distribution maps in the Provisional Atlas 1969-1976 may be complemented by CSN. Thus, a casual browser could well think that the Pipit, map 151, is common in northern N.Z., whereas north of the Volcanic Plateau he might easily travel far, including stretches of coast, and end the day pipitless and dispirited. An examination of maps 152-155 draws attention to the need to report Tuks in the lowlands east of the Southern Alps and Bellbirds on the mainland north of Cambridge. To mappers, an advancing species such as the Spurwing, map 87, poses a perpetual problem.

May I remind all would-be loggers that another year for CSN is well on the way.

Abbreviations: BoP = Bay of Plenty; C = clutch; est. = estuary; F.P. = Forest Park; FoT = Firth of Thames; N.P. = National Park; o.p. = oxidation ponds; pen. = peninsula; R.P. = Regional Park; S.F. = State Forest; S.P. = sewage ponds; W.R. = Wetland Reserve.

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E & O E

BROWN KIWI *Apteryx australis*

N.I.: Bay of Islands, Parua Bay, calling in scrub 30/12; Urquhart's Bay, calling 25/4 (TGL). Opoutere, called after electrical storm and heavy rain on 31/12. Waikaremoana on 20/10, heard (PCML). Matawai, killed by cyanide (EJJ).

S.I.: Breaksea Sound, pr calling on 7/3. Haast Pass, 1 (?sp) in car headlights on 22/7 (KM).

Stewart I.: Rakeahua Valley, frequently heard at night, 1-3/2 (WAW).

GREAT SPOTTED KIWI *Apteryx haastii*

Heaphy Track, 2 prs calling near Mackay Hutt on 26/3 (KM).

Red Jacks, young bird ran across road on 2/11 (CSL). Heard (?sp) Arthur's Pass on 6/4 (R&GPG).

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN *Megadyptes antipodes*

Hakateri Beach, 4/3/78, moulting 2 yellow-eyed, 2 white-flipped, 3 erect-crested, 2 Little Blue (ML). Papanui, 25 on 18/8 (P&KM). Boulder Bay, 6+1 chick on 8/1 (CM). Codfish I., Sealers' Bay, pr incubating 29/10-4/11 (EC).

BLUE PENGUIN *Eudyptula minor*

S. Westland, Wanganui est., breeding under flax in sand-dunes (CFO'D). Doubtful Sound, Hall's Arm, 6 on 6/1 (CM). Codfish I., 12 in surf on 29/10 (EC).

FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*

Jackson Head, 1 on 31/12 (CM). Secretary I., adults ashore, eggs and small chick found on 23/8 (JVM). Andrew Burn area, single birds moulting in caves, Feb 80 (KM). Codfish I., only 3 seen, 30/10-2/11 (EC).

CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Te Awamutu, 2 reported seen on farm dam (JHG). Kaikoura, L. Rotorua, 2 diving near a colony of nesting shags on 19/9 and 13/10 (BE). Ashburton lakes, 78-79, 53; 79-80, 57; of 37 eggs laid only 8 hatched and only one young bird reached independence (CFO'D). L. Pearson, pr at south end on 11/5 (SCS). L. McGregor, 3 prs on 8/11 (P&KM); 14 on 28/2 (CFO'D). L. Murray, 1 pr (P&KM). Adults feeding young on L. Brunner 24/3 and L. Poerua 19/4 (CS). L. Ianthe, 1 on 22/12 & 27/4 (RW). L. Moeraki, 1 on 31/12 (CM). Te Anau and Manapouri, a small population tending to stay close to favoured areas (KM, JVM). L. Thomas, 3 ad 2 juv on 5/4 (MLB). L. Monowai, 4 on 31/5 (DC).

NEW ZEALAND DABCHICK *Podiceps rufopectus*

Far northern Lakes Survey, 7 on 26/1 (MPK). Dargaville and Pouto lakes, 67 during March '80, 21 being on Humuhumu (WJC). Waiwera ponds, 6 on 4/8 (TJL). Straka's pond, 8 (MJT). S. Auckland, a few casuals on farm ponds and sand-dune lakes. Tuakau S.P., pair nest-building in Oct (BB, DAL, AH, RBS). BoP, scarce. Muriwai, both the dune lakes and the dabchick/scaup population are shrinking (SMR). Hamilton lake, 2 on 15/4 (MAB). Taupo, c.30 at Tokaanu on 7/7 (PCML). Marton S.P. 44 on 24/5 (JL & MM); 53 on 26/4, only 6 clearly juv (BDH). Foxton No. 1, 3 on 25/5 (LJD).

HOARY-HEADED GREBE *Podiceps poliocephalus*

No proof of breeding this season. Redcliff W.R., Southland, 2 on 3/2 and 1/3 (MLB).

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Rehutai, 1 Dec-Jan; 2 on 15/6. Pond near Bayly's Beach, 1 on 7/3 (WJC). Nelson, Druggen's Lagoon, 2 on 18/10 (AC). St Anne's Lagoon, 6 adults and 4 young on 18/2 (BE). L. Brunner, pr carrying nesting material; 1 egg on 20/1/79; 2 chicks on 18/2. A year later, 3 in May (SCS).

WANDERING ALBATROSS *Diomedea exulans*

Several off Cuvier I. Aug 79 (TGL). Muriwai, juv ashore alive on 6/4. Nursed, and released a week later off C. Colville (CM).

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK *D. melanophrys*

Outer Hauraki Gulf and around Cuvier I., noted frequently, winter '79 (TGL). Foxton, 1 passing N on 24/5 (JL & MM).

YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK *D. chlororhynchos*

Outer Hauraki Gulf and BoP, now seems to be in similar numbers to Blackbrow (TGL). 512 miles W of Manukau Heads, 1 adult on water on 25/10; 1 mile S of Channel I., 1 ad and 1 imm on 27/5 (NGC).

SHY MOLLYMAWK *D. cauta cauta*

Foxton Beach, several N on 22-23/9; c.10 N on 25/5. (JL & MM). Tasman Bay, 12 miles out c.25 on 3/6 (JMH). 60 miles west of Westport during August 'solid line stretching for at least one mile behind the big trawler' (BH). In Tasman Bay only one *salvini* was noted among typical *cauta*.

CHATHAM ISLAND MOLLYMAWK *D. cauta eremita*

Pitt Strait, several logged on 14/9; a few seen off S.E. Island Sept-Oct (TGL).

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS *Phoebastria palpebrata*

Lumsden and Wendon, 2 blown inland on 12/6 (SAS).

GIANT PETREL *Macronectes* sp.

C. Colville, 3 on 20/11. Foxton Beach and Ngauranga up to 5 on various dates (JL & MM). Kaikoura, 6 on 26/10 (BE).

CAPE PIGEON *Daption capense*

Hauraki Gulf and around Cuvier I., often seen July-Aug (TGL). Kaikoura, 100+ on 8/9 & 26/10 (BE). 60 miles W of Westport, large numbers Aug 79 (B&JMH).

GREY-FACED PETREL *Pterodroma macroptera*

Cuvier I., thousands at dusk on 30/7, forming a dense ring several miles deep; egg shells outside burrows on 24/8; a few adults still coming in to feed young on 27/11. Scores offshore from Tutukaka to Rimiriki Is on 19/4 (TGL).

WHITE-HEADED PETREL *P. lessonii*

Foxton Beach, 1 N on 25/5 (JL & MM).

KERMADEC PETREL *P. neglecta*

Cuvier I., one, dark phase, visiting Red-billed Gull colony nearly every afternoon in late Nov-early Dec. It would appear c.4 pm and circle the lighthouse promontory till dusk, often calling, but apparently not landing. Sometimes it chased the gulls; occasionally it was harried by White-fronted Terns. Possibly the same bird as noted in 1976 (*Notornis* 23: 259-262) (TGL).

GOULD PETREL *P. leucoptera*

Port Waikato, 1 ashore on 11/5 (KB, AH, DMW).

COOKS PETREL *P. cookii*

Great Barrier, heard overhead at Karaka Bay and Kaikohe est. 18-25/11 (DAL). Cuvier I. heard overhead Nov-Dec; 1 dead below the light. Many cookilarias between Chickens and Groper Rock on 17/11; some with darker upperparts, perhaps being *pycrofti*. Many between C. Colville and Cuvier on 20/11; some Little Barrier to Hen I. on 7/4 (TGL).

BLACK-WINGED PETREL *P. nigripennis*

S.E. Island, none coming in by 20/10 (TGL).

CHATHAM ISLAND PETREL *P. axillaris*

S.E. Island, none coming in by 20/10 (TGL).

BLUE PETREL *Halobaena caerulea*

BoP, Papamoa, 1 ashore alive but exhausted on 25/7 (PCML).

BROAD-BILLED PRION *Pachyptila vittata*

S.E. Island, incubation well under way by mid-Sept; first chicks early Oct; large flocks visible offshore by day (TGL).

PRION (sp?) *Pachyptila* ?sp

Cuvier I., hundreds at sea on 29/7 (TGL). Foxton Beach, thousands passing S before strong north-westerlies on 1/12 at 7.30 am. None at evening nor next morning (JL & MM).

BLACK PETREL *Procellaria parkinsoni*

Seems to be an easy species to log during summer between Cuvier and the Barriers to Takatu Pen. e.g. 5 on 20/11; c.20 on 2/4; several on 7/4 (TGL). N.E. of Thumb Pt., Waiheke, c.4 miles out, 1 on 3/4 and 9/4, right alongside (AJG). Hamilton, one brought in alive by cat from airport and released from cliffs near Waiuku on 20/6 (culmen 43) (JHS). Gisborne, 1 dazzled on porch of Tatapouri Hotel on 19/2; released at sea next day by *Spirit of Adventure* (EJJ).

WESTLAND BLACK PETREL *Procellaria westlandica*

Inter-island ferry, 1 seen at 7.45 pm on 20/1 (CM). c.60 miles W. of Westport, Aug 79, some among Shy Mollies and Cape Pigeons. Tasman Bay, a few seen, e.g. off Stephens I. early Nov. (B&JMH).

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus carneipes*

3 miles off Waiheke on 9/4, c.400; the biggest flock seen this year on eleven trips. Waiheke to Great Barrier (AJG). Disappear from Tasman Bay during May, returning Oct-Nov (JMH).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Near Greymouth, a small breeding colony (CSL). Codfish I., moaning in burrows mid-morning 31/10 (EC). S.E. Island, first seen en masse about end of first week of October (TGL).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER *Puffinus gavia*

Wellington Harbour — recorded July-Nov and March-April; max c.200 on 5/10 (JL&MM).

HUTTON'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus huttoni*

Wellington Harbour, 5 on 12/10, close to wharf (JL&MM). Kaikoura, 1000+ on 29/9; many thousands in Oct. Mt. Fyffe hut,

heard coming in 11.30 to midnight; many flying back to sea between 4.30 and 4.50, mid-Dec (BE). Hundreds per minute flying N ahead of rising southerly on 25/11 with occasional nellies, mollies and muttonbirds (R&GPG).

LITTLE SHEARWATER *Puffinus assimilis*

Channel I., Cape Barrier to Cuvier I., scattered 17/7-16/8 and 20/11. Bream Bay to Tutukaka 19/4, a few (TGL).

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL *Garrodia nereis*

Manapouri Motor Inn, 2 dazzled and grounded on 12/2 (KM). S.E. Island, moderate numbers; remains found in skua middens (TGL).

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL *Pelagodroma marina*

Cuvier I., 1 dead below light, Dec '79 (TGL). FoT, Motuakino, c.50 on 26/1, apparently feeding well-feathered young (CM). S.E. Island, enormous numbers burrow-cleaning late Sept (TGL).

DIVING PETREL *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

Numerous at sea between Channel I., C. Barrier and Cuvier I. July-Aug. S.E. Island, breeding commonly, Sept-Oct '79 (TGL).

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda*

90 miles SW from C. Reinga, 1 adult on 10/2; 143 miles SSW from Lord Howe I., one on 10/3 (NGC).

AUSTRALASIAN GANNET *Sula bassana serratior*

Tasman sightings: 260 miles W of C. Reinga, 1 ad; 300 miles W, 1 juv on 9/3. 125 miles W of C. Reinga, 1 ad on 10/6 (NGC). 5 miles W of Happy Jack, 1 juv on water 29/1 (AJG). Muriwai, 5 nests with eggs on mainland on 18/11 (IN). 170 nests, 60 chicks on Pillar Rock (The Stack) on 9/12 (SMR). Foxton, recorded all months, 13 on 13/12. Wellington Harbour, max 4 on 10/9 (JL&MM). Golden Bay, 65 off Pakawau on 29/3 (JMH). Kaikoura, up to 3 (BE). Grey est., 1 Dec '79 (AVB).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*

Muriwai, 1 dead on 6/4 (CM). Picton, 1 seen from ferry on 22/2 (R&GPG).

BLACK SHAG *Phalacrocorax carbo*

FoT, 309 on 20/4 (BB). Tukituki est., c.40 on 18/4; Ngaruroro est., c.80 on 10/5 (KVT). Forge Flat, Routeburn, 1 at 640m on 13/4 (PC).

PIED SHAG *Phalacrocorax varius*

Cuvier I., c.15 birds and 5 occupied nests, July '79 (TGL). Whitianga, c.9 nests on 6/6 (ABJ). Upper Waitemata, Paremoremo, 30 nests on 8/2; 155 birds in two roosts on 15/6 (GMHP). Muriwai lakes, 10 nests at Kuwakatai on 14/10 (SMR, DWW). S. Manukau, Hingaia colony growing; 31 nests, 132 birds on 29/7 (BB). Kaituna Cut, 86+ on 13/5 (KF). Wairau est., providing nests for Royal Spoonbills (RH).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Lakes of Far North, 56 end of Jan (MPK). Mangonui, regular, up to 50 in June. Kerikeri inlet, seasonal; up to 50 June-July (ATE).

Kuwakatai on 14/10, 3 prs at nests (SMR). Paremoremo, 10 nests (DWW). Waikato est., 170 pack-feeding on 6/3 (AH). Taupo, Hatepe, 1 tired on beach on 6/4 (WAW). H.B. numerous, e.g. Wairoa R. 7 in May (GEF); Tukituki est. c.60 on 18/4; Ahuriri c.70 on 2/2 (KVT). Manawatu, 17 on 20/4; 27 on 15/6 (LJD). Wellington, max 24 on 10/8 (JL&MM). Wairau est., 1 on 15/1 (RBS). Waimea set., 3 on 16/4. Atawhai, 1 in June with 2 Little Shags (JMH).

LITTLE SHAG *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*

Whitianga, 120 on 20/6 (ABJ). Hagley Park, max 17 on Victoria Lake on 30/5 (R&GPG). S. Canterbury, Maori Lakes, 30-50 roosting on stumps of niggerheads (CFO'D).

KING SHAG *Leucocarbo carunculatus carunculatus*

Duffers Reef, c.24 adults, 11 young and 1 occupied nest on 29/7 (PJ).

STEWART ISLAND SHAG *Leucocarbo carunculatus chalconotus*

A few visit Oamaru breakwater, e.g. 5 on 5/4. Moeraki, c.15 roosting near colony of Spotted Shags (CFO'D). Katiki and Shag Pt, 21 on 10/6 (P&KM).

CHATHAM ISLAND SHAG *Leucocarbo carunculatus onslowi*

A few fishing near Port Hutt. Odd birds seen at S.E. Island Sept-Oct; but they do not breed there. c.20 at N.E. Reef, Pitt I. on 20/10 (TGL).

SPOTTED SHAG *Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus*

S. Kaipara Heads, 3 flying past to inside waters on 5/3 (AH). Mangere S.P., 1 on 2/4 (SMR). Haumoana, 2 on 3/5; Napier S, 2 on 10/5 (KVT). Manawatu, 1 22-23/6 (JL&MM). Pelorus Sound, ad in full breeding dress, carrying nesting material on 29/7 (PJ).

PITT ISLAND SHAG *Stictocarbo punctatus featherstoni*

Nest building and some incubating on S.E. Island, mid-Sept, in small colonies. Often seen in feeding flocks with White-fronted Terns overhead, e.g. 20 shags and 50 terns on 10/10 (TGL).

WHITE-FACED HERON *Ardea novaehollandiae*

Assisted passage on CTV *Union Rotorua*; first seen on deck on 18/4, 435 miles W of C. Reinga. Remained for 650 miles till 8.00 pm on 19/4 when vessel berthed in Sydney; flew off across harbour (NGC). Kohukohu, nest used thrice in 79-80 season; a few sticks added before third clutch; 2 fledglings flew on 3/3 (KB). Kerikeri Inlet, 30 in loose flock in April (ATE). Farewell Spit, comparatively few in mid-May, c.100 (BDH). Ashburton lakes, up to 5 up to 825 m (CFO'D).

KOTUKU *Egretta alba*

Reported widely in winter from more than 30 'beats,' mainly coastal. Records of unusual interest are: Maori Lakes, 1 for 3 days at 700 m in November (CFO'D); Resolution I., 1 in rimu on 9/5 (KM). As usual, odd non-breeding subadults summered far away from Okarito (TGL, RBS).

LITTLE EGRET *E. garzetta*

A thin scattering from Hokianga to Foveaux St. Kohukohu, 1, July-Aug '79 (KB). Kaipara, 1 on 26/8 (DEC). Port Waikato, 2 most of March (DMW, AH). Little Waihi, 1 on 26/4-1/5 (PCML). Westshore, 1 on 8/3 (KVT). Manawatu and Foxton No. 1, at least 1, winter '79 and autumn '80 (LJD, JL&MM). Wairau Pa, 1 on 18/6 (RF). Waimea est., 1 on 21/1 (KB, BB, RBS); 2 on 9/5 (BE); 1 on 29/6 (TJT). Cobden Lagoon, 1 on 29/4; 2 on 6/5 (CSL). Riverton, 1 on 19/4 (PMM, OJL).

REEF HERON *E. sacra*

Singles and pairs widely reported around coastal bays and inlets N of roughly 38°S. Also recorded from Westshore (KVT), Mohaka est. (GEF). Motueka, 1 with group of SIPO (KLO). Dusky Sound, Petrel Is (KM). Bluff (JVM). Kaikoura (BE). Blumine I and Rosie Morn (JC).

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

More non-breeders summered than ever before. The expected irruption was well under way by mid-April, as birds made their landfall from Northland to Southland. At Alexandra, 6 appeared on 14/6 and after a few days were frosted out (PC). A full report is being prepared.

NANKEEN NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Tarara, Owaka, Catlins, imm in 21/6, had already been present for a week. By night it went cray fishing. (Tim Jackson)

BITTERN *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Waitotira, booming from early Sept, booms commonly in groups of threes (TGL). Northland, booming Oct-Dec, often around mid-day (WJC). Awatoto, often 'freezing' (KVT). L. Wairarapa, several booming strongly in the afternoon, 31/10 (RBS). Rakopi wetland, 3 on 26/3 (KLO). Ashburton lakes, common in raupo margins, less common in niggerheads; some still present in winter snows (CFO'D).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

L. Ngatu, up to 5, winter '79 (MH). Meremere, the over-winterer stayed from April to Nov (JC). Ahuriri, 1 on 11/11 and 24/11 (CS, LH, KVT). Ward, 1 flying along coast with SIPO on 18/1 (SMR). Pakawau-Puponga-Farewell Spit, 4-6 in Aug (JMH). 4 in October (JH&BHS), 3 in mid-May (BDH). Westport, 1 with Cattle Egrets on 27/12 (CM). Taieri Lake, 1 on 10/2 (PC).

WHITE IBIS *Threskiornis molucca*

Awanui, one during winter '79 (MH).

ROYAL SPOONBILL *Platalea regia*

Awanui, one wintering '79 (MH). Westshore, 1 on 2/6, stayed till 22/10 (KVT). Manawatu est., present Jan-June, max 21 on 25/3, 22 in April (LJD, JL&MM). Wairau lagoons, at least 3 prs bred; 12 on 18/5, including two clearly smaller (PT). Waimea est., 8 on 27/2; 12 on 16/4, 1 with outer primaries blackish-brown (JMH); 11 on 7/5 (BE). Motueka, 7 on 25/8; 5 on 28/4; 8 on 13/5 (KLO, BE). Farewell Spit, 12 on 6/4 (K&JVM, RB); 13 on 12-17/5 (BDH).

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL *P. flavipes*

Awanui, one still around Aug '79 (MH).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

L. Waikare, 18 on 26/8 (NP); 49 on 23/4 (F. Thompson). H.B., Ngamotu Lagoon, max 55, 10 occupied nests on shinglebar among driftwood and marram (GEF). Westshore, 44 on 7/11 (CS, MC). Nelson Haven, 27 arrived on 17/9 and stayed about a week (JMH). Kaikoura, occasional. St Anne's lagoon, 29 on 28/9 (BE). Elterwater, 38 on 29/12 (TJT). Horseshoe 1, Glynwye, 15 on 24/5 (JC). Rakaia riverbed, 2 nests on 12/10 (CFO'D). Te Anau, c.140 on 17/6 (JVM). Redcliff W.R., 146 on 1/3 (RRS).

PARADISE SHELDUCK *Tadorna variegata*

Far North lakes survey, Jan '80, 1365 (MPK). Paua, 42 on 8/11 (ATE). Muriwai lakes, max 8 on 18/11 (SMR). S. Auckland, marked increase, Karaka 18-19 during winter; FoT, 30 in March (JV, DAL, JW). Onewhero, c.100 on 3/5 (DMW). BoP, Matata-Awaiti, c.300 on 11/8 (PCML). H.B., Hurimoana Swamp, c.150 on 26/8 (KVT). Farewell Spit, 30+; now spread in ponds throughout where the explorers of 1961 (*Notornis* 9: 148) found none (BDH). Wakefield, c.24 among cattle. L. Rotorua, c.100 21/1 (KB, BB, RBS). Grey valley, 30 in Feb. Inland Kaikouras, c.150 moulting on farm pond, Jan '80 (AVB, IS). Catlins, increasing, 6 prs Owaka (JJ). Eglinton Valley, pr with 13 ducklings, possibly two families. Dead female nearby. Grace Burn, 5 prs at sea in a moderate swell on 6/2 (KM).

AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK (MANED GOOSE) *Chenonetta jubata*

Near Blenheim, 1 shot mid-April (W. Johnston per PJ).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Far North lakes survey, 175 in Jan '80 (MPK). Dargaville lakes, 483 in March (WJC). A comparatively new intruder in Northland.

GREY DUCK *A. superciliosa*

Far North survey, c.100 (MPK). Dargaville lakes, 460 in March (WJC). Muriwai lakes, max 10 on 18/11 (SMR). BoP, thinly distributed; Matata, max 100 on 11/5 (PCML).

GREY TEAL *A. gibberifrons*

Te Atatu, 2 on 4/5 (GMHP). Mangere S.P., max 23 on 13/5 (MGR). FoT, max 15 on 4/4 (AH); 12 on 7/5 (BB). Tuakau S.P., lower Waikato, a favoured resort; c.60 on 7/10; 253 and a brood of 6 on 6/1 (AH). Kawhia, L. Taharoa, 4 on 18/8 (JHS). Kaituna Cut, 10 on 15/12; c.200 on 26/4. Awaiti wetlands, 20 on 30/3; Rotopounamu, 6 on 8/7 (PCML). Patutahi, 27 ad and 3 broods on Dod's pond on 26/1 (EJJ). Ahuriri marsh, c.100 on 13/4 (KVT). Foxton Beach, 6 over sea on 3/5 (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 2 in mid-May (BDH). Blaketon lagoon, 2 on 17/5; 2 reported Hokitika and 4 at Okarito (CSL). Kaikoura, L. Rotoiti, 6 on 12/1 (JLD). Christchurch S.P., 41 on 25/4 (R&GPG). Maori Lakes, duck with 11 ducklings, Dec '79 (CFO'D). L. McGregor, several on 8/11 (P&KM). Arrowtown pond, 6 + 3 juv on 18/2 (MLB). Alexandra, 35 on

20/7/80, biggest local flock (PC). Te Anau, at south end max 35 on 27/4 (JVM).

BROWN TEAL *A. chlorotis*

Omaunu, July '79, two streams provide habitats for sizeable populations (AHO). Parekura Bay, 25 in Nov (DBR). Whananaki, c.36 on 27/12 (WJC). Port Fitzroy, 27 in Jan (JV). Whangaparapara, mid-June, visiting lawn after dusk; alert and nervous; much quacking and piping (AJG). Riverton est., 1 shot on 22/4 (RRS).

NEW ZEALAND SHOVELER *A. rhynchotis*

Far North lakes survey, 15 in Jan '80 (MPK). Whau valley dam, 4 on 6/6. Dargaville lakes, 37 (WJC). Muriwai, max 12 on 18/11 (SMR). Tuakau S.P., 100+ on 7/10 and 14/4 (AH). BoP, flocks visit all suitable waters; Matata, c.250 on 26/4 and 11/5; Awaitei, c.150 on 28/7 (PCML). Miranda, 20+ on 4/4 (BB). Port Waikato, 500+ on 26/6 (AH). Patutahi, Dod's pond, 41 ad, 2 broods on 26/11 (EJJ). Ahuriri marsh, c.200 on 13/4 (KVT). Farewell Spit, 28 on 7/4 (JVM). Nelson Haven, 17 on 1/5 (JMH). Blaketown lagoon, 12 on 13/4. L. Poerua, 4 on 19/4 (CSL). Te Anau, max 60 on 15/5 (JVM).

BLUE DUCK *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*

Motu, over 80 km in early March, 80+ adults (EJJ). Aniwa-niwa, 2 on 30/12 (MD). Hopuruahe R., pr on 21/10. West Coast, 10 Mile Creek, pr June '80 (AVB). Blue R., headwaters of Makarora, 1 pr on 5/1; Deep Cove, Lydia R., pr on 14/8 (JVM) and 17/10 (EC).

NEW ZEALAND SCAUP *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

Far North lakes survey, one in Jan (MPK). Dargaville and Pouto lakes, only 46 7-9/3. Single strays to Mimiwhangata and Whau Valley (WJC). L. Kereta, 15 on 16/8 (DWW). Tuakau S.P., 10 on 10/10 (AH, RBS); later perhaps 2 prs bred. BoP, small flocks wander; Awaitei, 7 on 22/7; Thornton lagoon, 10 on 4/8; Matata, max 20 in April; Matahina, 3 prs on 2/12 (PCML). Hamilton Lake, occasional, 2 on 1/3 & 27/4 (MHB). L. Kuratau, c.30 on 23/1 (BB, KB, RBS). Hurimoana swamp, c.80 on 26/8 (KVT). L. Poerua, c.120 on 21/4 (CSL). West Coast, regular on some waters; a visitor to others (AVB). Kaikoura, L. Rotoiti, 2 on 12/1 (LJD). L. Monowai, 12 on 1/2 (EC).

AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER *Circus approximans*

Glink's Gully, nest on 11/12 with 4 young of very different sizes (WJC). L. Brunner, 15 at communal roost on sandy spit with trees; some drinking at sunrise (CSL). Stewart Island, display flights with 3 birds, Aug '78 (CFO'D).

NEW ZEALAND FALCON *Falco novaeseelandiae*

An unprecedented spate of sightings from the Far North: Ahipara, June '79, one over golf centre (HAF); Mangamuka Gorge, 1 late '79 (DV); Russell S.F., one well seen on 14/12 at close range; one earlier reported at Kaiatea (KR). Several reports from Volcanic Plateau and eastwards: Murupara (WAW); HB to Taupo Rd 2 (KVT); Pureroa (R&GPG); Matawai, 2 on 7/3 (GEF); Gisborne Botanical Gardens, hunting sparrows in Phoenix Palms (EJJ). Ward, pr in residence after gap of 25 years; seen taking a Chukor and attacking a Harrier (TJT).

Numerous reports E of Alps. Kaikoura coast: 1 on 25/5 (BE); Kowhai R-Mt Fyffe 4 on 10/1 (LTD). Waipara, 1 on 17/11 (R&GPG). Arthur's Pass NP, 1; L. Pearson, 1 on 11/5 (SCS). Borland Lodge on 7/10 (EC). L. Onslow 1 at 2500ft on 4/11; Paerau, upper Taieri R. at 2500ft on 11/11, 1 took a skylark in high tussock country; W of L. Wanaka, nest 2 chicks at 3500ft on 12/12; Earnslaw Ridge above Kea Basin, 1 at 5000ft on 23/2; Matukituki Valley, 1 chasing a Harrier on 14/6; a small dark male seen to take a Song Thrush and a Silvereye. Old Man Range at 3500ft far above snowline on 19/7. Gillespie Pass, 1 at 4000ft on 9/5 (PC). Te Anau, 1 often at the township; once on 25/12 with Fantail catching insects within a metre of its perch (JVM). NW Nelson, Kahurangi Pt-Anaweka est., 5 on 15-16/4; logging in progress (KLO).

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Old Man Range, cock amongst tussock at 3800ft on 27/10 (PC).

BROWN QUAIL *Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Northland, few reported "77-80 (ATE). Waiotira, calling on 8/9 (TGL). Clevedon, 6 on 28/5 dusting and preening (AJG). S. Auckland and BoP lowlands, thinly distributed (BB, AH, PCML). Kaituna Cut, 5 on 13/5 (KF).

PEA FOWL *Pavo cristatus*

Marohemo, some persisting (MEW).

BANDED RAIL *Rallus philippensis*

Numerous reports from northern inlets and estuaries, S to BoP and Kawhia (WJC, GMHP, JHS). Well distributed around the muddy margins of Golden Bay and Tasman Bay (KLO, JB, K&JVM).

WEKA *Gallirallus australis*

St Arnaud, several reported after some years' absence (PJ). Dusky Sound, Petrel Islands, heard on 10/5 (KM). Chatham Is, Port Hutt, pr (*hectori*) with two downy young on 20/10 (TGL).

MARSH CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*

Kaikoura, L. Rotorua, 4 on 13/2, briefly glimpsed. Motueka, 1 on 16/4; best seen at dawn and dusk (BE). Pearl Creek, Appleby, 5 on 20/3 (JB). Present, high country swamps up to 700 m a.s.l., e.g. Maori Lakes. Where do birds go in winter when vegetation dies? (CFO'D). Daffodil Bay, 1 on 9/4 (PMM, OJL).

SPOTLESS CRAKE *Porzana tabuensis*

Presence in suitable habitat widely confirmed from Northland to Marlborough. Dargaville lakes and Pouto Pen (WJC). Kawhia, Kiritehere, Ohauapo, Mangapehi (JH&BHS). Foxton (LJD, JL&MM). Flaxbourne, Elterwater (PJ, TJT).

PUKEKO *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*

Napier Harbour Board Marsh, c.200 on 2/6 (KVT).

TAKAHE *Notornis mantelli*

Nest with young chick and unhatched egg on 22/11 (KM).

AUSTRALIAN COOT *Fulica atra australis*

Northwards, both Coot and Spurwing have gone about as far as they can go. Te Paki lake, 9 during Jan '80 (MPK). Ngataki, 1 in June '79. Hamilton Lake, still increasing; aggressive; long nesting season; nest C6 on 22/9; other nests already hatched (JHS, BHS). 82 including chicks and full-grown young on 27/4 (MAB). Okere, c.30 on 7/7 (PCML). H.B., Tuai Lake, 12 including 2 nests with sitting birds on 28/10 (GAF). Palmerston North, 1 on 8/9 (MD). Coastal pond near Paturau R., 1 on 8/4 (KLO). St. Anne's Lagoon, 12 on 15/12; Elterwater, 3 on 21/1 (BE). L. Heron, breeding and surviving spring floods much more successfully than Crested Grebes (CFO'D). Arrowtown pond, pr + 2 juv. on 18/2 (MLB).

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus finschi*

Whangarei Harbour, 1069 on 14/7; 1750 on 22/3 (MPK). Jordans, 2200 on 1/3 (BB). Upper Waitemata Harbour, now a regular winter visitor, sometimes in hundreds, max 440 in 1975 (AM). Manukau, 6479 on 4/11; 25 666 on 15/6 (BB, SMR, *et al.*). FoT, 984 on 25/11, summering; 10113 on winter census '80 (BB). BoP, Little Waihi, max 15 on 12/4 (PCML). Westshore, 17 on 8/3 (KVT). L. Wairarapa, N end, 5 on 24/11 (BDH). Manawatu est., present all months, max 75 on 9/3 (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 2320, early Oct (BHS); only c.4000 in mid-May (BDH). Upper Buller, more than usual nesting (PJ). Westport, Orowaiti, c.300 on 14/7 (SCL). Ward, one with foot missing seen on ploughland for third year (TJT). Ashburton lakes, only 1, 26-27/7 (CFO'D). Benmore, 38 on 27/12, Wainono, 21 on 1/1 (LJD). Southland lagoons, 756 on 29/12 (RRS).

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus unicolor*

Mangonui, 26 during Dec '79. Taipa, 19 (BT). Great Barrier, pr on airstrip and another pr on nearby beach (TGL). Mangawhai, max 62 on 19/4; Muriwai to S. Kaipara Heads, 20 on 22/12 (SMR). Pairs visit bays on Waiheke and Browns Islands (GMHP). BoP, Tairua, 20 on 4/4 (DGB); Opoutere, 3-4 prs (J&BB); Sulphur Point, 5 resident prs, max 40 on 25/4 (KF); Kaituna Cut-Maketu, 5 prs breeding; autumn max 20 on 4/5; Little Waihi, max 48 on 2/4-22/6 (PCML, JH&BHS). Resident pairs at river mouths of Tarawera, Rangitaiki need both pluck and luck. Port Waikato, 6 on 7/10 (AH). Manawatu, max 8 (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 40+ in Oct (JH&BHS). Nelson boulderbank, 6-8 prs (JMH). Westland, a few pairs scattered along coast (CSL). Marfells Beach, 8 on 26/8 (TJT). Grace Burn Beach, pr and 2 young on 6/2 (KM). Southland lagoons, 12 on 29/12 (RRS). Codfish I., Sealers Beach, 7 on 4/11 (EC).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

Far North: Shenstone Farm, 9 in Jan '79 (MPK); Portland, 2 on mudflat on 26/9 (ATP). Karaka, near Hingaia Bridge, 1 on 27/9 (GV). FoT, max 4 (RC, DAL); 1 pr, resident; but nesting not proved (JW). S. Auckland & Hauraki Plains: reports from Mangatangi, pr on maize stubble. Kopuku, Meremere, Whangamarino, Nether-ton (IS, DAL, AJG, BB). Kiritihere Valley, heard on 19/4 (JHS, BHS). Ruakituri Valley, 3 on 23/7 (EJJ). Atiamuri, 1 on 20/12: Ahuriri, 8 on 24/11 (KVT). Iwitea-Whakaki Lagoon, numerous sightings, biggest group 7 (GAF). Manawatu, max 21 on 24/2 (JL&MM). New

Judgeford links, 6 on 11/1 (BB, KB, RBS). Farewell Spit, 14 on outer beach; nest C4, early Oct (JHS, BHS). Waimea est., 37 on 22/7 (PH, PM). Westland, now common and breeding, especially in the south (CSL). Whangamoa est., 5 on 11/1 (KLO). Wairau est. and Ward, a common bird now (TJT). L. Ellesmere, Kaituna, 31 on 27/5 (R&GPG). Benmore, 44 on 27/12; Wainono, 5 on 1/1 (LJD). Dart Valley, Kinloch, Southland lagoons, 218 on 29/12 (RRS). Stewart I., heard from cleared ground at Mason Bay on 5/2 (WAW).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Southland, Waituna lagoon, 2 on 29/1 (PMM, OJL). Awarua Bay, 1 in breeding dress on 19/4 (MLB).

LEAST GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

Paua, 5 in Nov; 300 in Dec (ATE). Whangarei, 12 in Nov, 25 in March (MPK). Ruāwai, 11 in paddocks near Burgess I. on 23/10 (WJC). Oyster Pt, 37 on 1/3 (SMR). Karaka, max c.30, Dec-Feb; 20 on 8/4 (AH, BB). Mataitai, 5 on 26/1 (SMR) and 9/3 (GMHP). FoT, 110 on 25/11 (BB). BoP, Sulphur Pt, 6 on 6/4 (JHS, BHS); Maketu, 20 on 26/1 (PCML); Ohope spit, 18 on 16/3 (RW). H.B., Westshore, 36 on 1/12 (KVT). Manawatu, present Dec-April, max 13 (LJD, JL&MM). Farewell Spit, up to 12 in early Oct (JHS, WFC). Waimea est., 2 on 22/1 (KLO). Wairau est., 7 in mid-Jan (RBS).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL *Charadrius obscurus*

Population apparently fairly stable in its heartland N of 38°S. Waipu, 7 Godwits attracted by distraction display near nest (AHG). Waiheke I., Te Matuku Bay, 13 on 19/6 (GMHP). Mataitai, 24 on 23/3. Coromandel Pen., Preece's Pt, 2 prs on 5/5 (AJG). Opoutere, 10 on 1/1 (JB). Miranda coast, max 8 (RBS). Upper Waitemata, max 4, Browns I., up to 3 prs (SMR). Mangere Airport, 13 on 18/3; Karaka, max 12 on 9/4. Manukau Harbour, 23 on winter census; 32 in summer (BB, DWW, BG). Kawhia, 12 on open beach on 17/2 (JC). BoP, Sulphur Pt, 5 + resident prs; autumn max 25 on 25/4; Maketu, 19 on 22/6; Little Waihi, max 13 on 12/4 (KF, PCML). Pt Ohope, max 49 on 6/4 (RW). Farewell Spit, 1 in mid-May (BDH). Motueka sandspit, 1 on 25/8; 1 on 8/2 (KLO). Awarua Bay, max 24 on 29/3 (MLB). Stewart I., Table Hill, 2 parties of 4 each on 2/2 (WAW).

BANDED DOTTEREL *C. bicinctus*

Paua, 50 in Jan, rising to c.750 in Feb; some hundreds till June (ATE, MPK). Whangarei Hr, 81 on 14/7; 3 on 10/11; 80 on 22/3 (MPK). Mangawhai, 22 on 22/1; 40 on 20/2. S. Kaipara Heads, nest C3 on 22/12 (SMR). Jordans, 26 on 1/3; 45 on 26/4 (GMHP). Upper Waitemata, Traherne I., 17 on 23/2; 191 on 10/5; Pollen I., 84 on 7/6 (GMHP). Manukau Hr, 927 on winter census (600 at Karaka on 4/5) (BHS). Port Waikato, 150 on 24/3 (AH). Whitford, 40 on 5/8; Mataitai, 48 on 6/1. Miranda, 6 on 25/11; 85 on 8/2; c.200 on 3/3 (GE, BB). Tairua, 42 on 15/12; 48 on 6/4 (DGB). Kaituna Cut, 1 pr bred, 10 on 4/5 (PCML). Port Ohope, 82 on 7/1 (MD). Tutakuri est., c.20 on 5/4 (KVT). Manawatu est., max 80 on 9/3 (JL&MM). Ohau est., 20 on 29/6 (BDH). Nelson Haven,

62 on 12/4; 100+ on 11/5; Moutere, 50+ on 19/2 (JMH). Farewell Spit, c.40 early Oct (BHS); c.500 in mid-May (BDH). Appleby, c.150 on 22/7 (PH, PM). Motueka sandspit, 12 on 20/8; W. Whanganui Inlet, 166 on 1/4. Marahau Inlet-Tinline, 27 on 31/1. The Kumeras, Staples Rd Inlet, 15 on 7/2 (KLO). Blaketown lagoon, c.80 on 17/5, Kokatahi, c.38 on pastures on 14/6 (CSL). Greymouth airfield, c.40 on 17/2; 35 on 28/5 (AVB). Hokitika, 65-70 on 10/2 (NW). Cass R., abundant on 8/11 (P&KM). Benmore, 24 on 27/12; Wainono, 40 on 1/1 (LJD). Southland lagoons, 517 on 29/12 (RRS). Stewart I., Table Hill, 2 on 2/2 (WAW). Chatham I., a few pairs in open country near Port Hutt on 22/10 (TGL).

MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL *C. mongolus*

Tapora, 1 on 22/3 (CM). Jordans, 1 edgily associating with c.20 Banded Dotterels on 18/12 (TGL, RBS). Karaka, 1 from 23/9 to 9/4 (BB, KJF, AH). Farewell Spit, 1 in fine breeding dress on 16/5 (BDH, HAR, MDD).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL *C. leschenaultii*

Paua, 2 on 21/3 (ATE). Miranda, 1 on 27/11 (SMR). Karaka, 1 from 6/10 to 12/4; 2 on 4/11 and possibly 2/12. Shoulder tabs evident but little colour on 12/4 (BB, KJF, AH).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *C. melanops*

Ruakaka, 1 on 13/10 (AHG). Miranda, 3 on 10/5 (DAL, BB). Karioitahi, 2 in mid-May (TRH, DAL). BoP, Mt Maunganui dump, 2 on 2/7 (KF); 4 on 18/8 (PCML) and 9/9 (JHS, BHS). Tutaekuri, 10 on 25/5; Te Hauke, c.46 on muddy tractor track (KVT). Longburn, 40+ on 24/5 (BHS). Nelson Haven, 1 wintered '79 till 7/10; 2 on 15/5 (JMH). Alexandra, 1 on 20/7, first record for Central Otago; still there a week later (PC). Aparima R., 3 at Thornbury on 13/1 (PMM, OJL). Lower Mararoa, 2 on 4/5 (K&JVM).

NEW ZEALAND SHORE PLOVER *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*

S.E. Island, territorial displays, but not found nesting by 20/10 (TGL).

WRYBILL *Anarhynchus frontalis*

Paua, c.100, March-April (ATE). Whangarei Hr, 154 on 14/7; 10 on 10/11; 137 on 22/3 (MPK). Mangawhai, 6 on 19/4 (SMR). Upper Waitemata, winter '79 max 15; 8 on 7/6/80 (GMHP). Manukau, c.24 over-summered; 1140 on 15/6. winter census. FoT, 98 on 25/11 over-summering; still 3000+ on 5/8 (MSF, AH); 400+ 31/12 (ARL); 2000 on 26/1; 3200 on 24/2 (AH, CM, RBS) but only 1903 on winter census, 8/7/80, the southward migration perhaps having begun (BB). BoP, Sulphur Pt, 146 on 14/7; 63 on 7/8; 5 on 11/12; 23 on 5/1; 107 on 22/3 (KF); 162 on 26/1; 70 on 25/4 (PCML). Gisborne, Muriwai Lagoon, 20 on 20/4 (AB). Napier, Westshore, 2 on 20/10 (KVT). Manawatu est., max 24 on 26/1 (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 1 in Oct (JHS&BHS). Motueka, 3 on 20/8; Waimea est., 16-18 on 14/11 (KLO). Wairau est., 4 on 12/1 (WFC). Grassmere, 7 on 17/1 (PJ, RBS). Benmore, 3 on 27/12; Wainono, 17 on 1/1 (LJD). Matukituki, 8 on 28/10/78, renesting after flood; 1 nest C2. Makarora, 4 on 29/10, 2 nests, each C2 (PC).

FAR-EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis*

Paua, 3 on 9/9; 4 on 8/11; 3 or 4 on each of 7 visits till 18/4; none seen, June (ATE). Karakā, 1 from 23/9-4/11 (BB, AH). FoT, 2 on 27/8 (NG) & 29/9; 5 on 25/11 and 3/3; 2 on 20/6 (BB, GE, BAE). Sulphur Pt, 1 on 5/1, briefly joined Godwits and Stilts; not seen again (KF). Manawatu est., 3 Nov-Dec; 4 from 6/1 to 9/3 (LJD, JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 5 in early Oct (JHS, BHS); 1 in mid-May (BDH).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

Paua, 1 or 2 in Nov-Dec; 10 in Jan. Kerikeri Inlet, 1 in Nov; 2 on 7/2 (ATE). Whangarei, 3 on 14/7; 11 on 10/11 (MPK). Mangawhai, 1 on 27/10 (SMR). Jordans-Oyster Pt, 2 on 1/3; 2 on 3/5 (TRH, GMHP). Karaka, up to 5, not all identified subspecifically, between 27/9 and 31/5 (BB, BJB, AH, JT). Sulphur Pt, 1 on 1/10 (JHS, BHS). Farewell Spit, up to 8 in early Oct (JHS, BHS, WFC). Kaikoura, 1 on 22/12 and 5/1 (BE).

AMERICAN WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

FoT, 1 on 1/11 and 25/11 (AH, BB). Farewell Spit, 1 on 7/4 (RB, K&JVM). 4 in mid-May (BDH, HAR, MDD). Awarua Bay, 1 on 1/6 (PMM, OJL).

WHIMBREL sp.

Westshore, 2 on 6/12 (KVT). Southland lagoons, 1 on 29/12 (RRS).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa melanuroides*

Manawatu est., 1 from 20-25 Jan (JL&MM). Ashley est., 2 on 25/11; 4 on 28/11 (J&JF).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT sp.

Waituna Lagoon, 1 on 29/12 (RRS).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Paua, 1000+ on 8/11; c.100 Dec-Jan; 500 on 2/2; 200 on 4/3; c.100 on 17/6, overwintering. May be roosting elsewhere since more and more Black Swans are occupying some of the traditional high-tide roosts (ATE). Whangarei, 39 on 14/7; 1346 on 16/11; 3298 on 22/3 (MPK). S. Kaipara Heads, 2200 on 5/3 (SMR). Upper Waitemata, big flocks most years Jan-March, max 3500 (AM, GMHP). Manukau, 1264 on 15/6, following a summer census of 16 517 (BB, SMR). Port Waikato, 11 on 19/9, feeding among beach debris; first seen here since 18/3; just arrived? (AH). FoT, only 181 on 8/7; but 320 on 12/8; 8903 on summer census (BB). BoP, Tauranga Hr, 3000-4000 during summer (KF); Little Waihi, 200 on 24/1; 43 on 18/5 (PCML); Port Ohope, 350 on 7/1 (MD). Westshore, c.350 on 6/12; 24 overwintering on 2/6 (KVT). Manawatu est., some hundreds all summer, max 372; 30 on 20/4, 12 on 15/6 (LJD, JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 5500, early Oct (JH&BHS); c.800 in mid-May (BDH). Moutere-Motueka, 1043 on 8/12 (KLO). Nelson Haven, up to 850 by 6/11 (JMH). Blaketown, a few drop in, max 11 (AVB). Martin's Bay, 1 on 9/1 (RB). Southland lagoons, 919+ on 29/12 (RRS); 1460 on 19/1 (MLB).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Rangitikei est., 1 on 23/12 (BDH). Awarua Bay, 1 on 29/12 (RRS), 12/1 and 15/3 (MLB).

MARSH SANDPIPER *T. stagnatilis*

Miranda, 1 found on 4/5 (AH) and stayed for some months (BB).

WANDERING TATTLER *T. incana*

Miranda, 1 on 27/10, full call heard (GH). Farewell Spit, 1 in mid-May (BDH). Whanganui Inlet, 1 on 1/4 (KLO). Flaxbourne est., 1 on 18/1 (BDB, CM).

SIBERIAN TATTLER *T. brevipes*

Miranda, 2 on 22/2 (LS); 1 on 17/3 (BHS); 1 on 17/5 (AH, CM). Farewell Spit, 1 on 7/10 (JHS, BHS, WFC). Nelson Haven, 1 on 4-18/3 (JMH). Kaikoura, Armer's lagoon, 1 on 8/7 and throughout Aug-Sept; 2 on 20/10; 3 on 29/10; 4 on 14/11; 3 over summer roosting together; but feeding apart; 1 on 17/5 (BE).

TATTLER sp?

Southland lagoons, 1 on 29/12; 3 on 12/1; 2 on 13/3 (MLB, RRS).

COMMON SANDPIPER *T. hypoleucos*

Ruakaka est., one Dec '79 (RP). Awhitu pen., Karioitahi, 1 on beach at creek mouth on 13/4 (DAL).

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

Port Whangarei, 1 on 9/11 with 12 Wrybills (WJC). Mangere S.P., 1 on 2/4 (SMR). Karaka, 2 on 26/9; 3 on 2/10; 5(?) on 24/3; 6 on 9/4; 2 on 4/5; 1 on 28/6 (BB, AH, GMHP). Miranda, 2 from at least 28/10 to 24/2; 1 on 3/5; 1 on 17/5 (AH, IS, CM, SMR, BHS). Manawatu est., 1 on 31/12, still present on 15/6 (JL&MM, LJD). Little Whanganui Inlet, 1 on 8/4 (K&JVM). Invercargill est., 3 on 29/12 (RRS); 2 on 30/1 (MLB).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Paua, 200 on 8/11; 2000 on 6/12; few in early Jan; 1000+ in Feb; usual March influx not noted; but 800 in April; 30 overwintering on 17/6 (ATE); 750 on 28/1 (MPK). Whangarei, 2 on 22/3. Mangawhai, max 16 on 16/3. S. Kaipara Hds, 50 on 22/12; Oyster Pt, 6 cannon-netted on 2/3 (SMR, CRV). Manukau Hr, 529 on 4/11, summer census; Kidd's, c.500 on 4/3 (KJF); 74 overwintering on 15/6 (BB). FoT, 93 on 25/11; 175 on 20/12 (JMcC); 150+ on 22/3 (RBS). BoP, a few all year, some overwintering; 8 on 21/7; 5 on 9/6 (KF); Maketu, 10 on 26/1; 6 on 22/6 (PCML). Westshore, 1 on 1/12 (KVT). Manawatu est., oddly scarce, max 4 (JL&MM); 1 on 17/2 (LJD). Farewell Spit, 1200 in early Oct (JHS, BHS); 300 in mid-May (BDH). Moutere-Motueka sandspit, 16 on 20/8; 36 on 25/8; 206 on 8/12; 345 on 8/2 (KLO); 48 on 13/3; 40 on 8/5 (BE). Grassmere, c.100 on 20/1. Kaikoura, max 90 on 30/12 (BE). Nelson Haven, passing visitor (JMH). Southland lagoons, 820 on 29/12 (RRS). Invercargill est., 706 on 19/1 (MLB). Waipapa Pt, 70+ on 20/10 (K&JVM).

CHATHAM ISLAND SNIPE *Coenocorypha pusilla*

Numerous on S.E. Island; commonly in pairs; most active at night and calling repeatedly, Sept-Oct (TGL).

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Paua, apparently a poor season, max 70 in Dec (ATE). Whangarei, 1022 on 10/11; 826 on 22/3 (MPK). S. Kaipara Hds, 2000 on 5/12; 650+ on 5/3. Jordans, 6000 on 1/3 (SMR). Upper Waitemata, often in hundreds Jan-April; sometimes 1400-2000 (GMHP, AM). Manukau, 9430 on 4/11; still 3500 on 31/5 and 4371 overwintering on 15/6. FoT, 4070 on 25/11; c.100 overwintering. Oyster Pt, 463 cannon-netted on 2/3 (CRV). BoP, Sulphur Pt, 6 on 26/1 (PCML). Pt Ohope, 6 on 16/3 (RW). Ahuriri, 10 on 17/11 (KVT). Kawhia, 4 on 9/2; 2 on 29/6 (LS, BHS). Manawatu est., some from Sept, max 100+ in Dec, to 26/4; none overwintering (LJD, JL&MM). Farewell Spit, 17 000 in early Oct (JHS, BHS); c.600 in mid-May (BDH). Moutere-Motueka, c.40 on 8/12; 27 on 8/2 (KLO). Blaketown Lagoon, 21 on 19/10, stayed about a week (CSL). Nelson Haven, 9 in mid-Oct (JMH). Wairau est., 5 on 12/1 (WFC). Southland lagoons, 26+ on 29/12 (RRS).

GREAT KNOT *C. tenuirostris*

Manawatu est., 1 on 1/1 (JL&MM); 6/1; 17/2 and 3/3 (LJD).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *C. acuminata*

Paua, 3 in March; 10 in April (ATE). Tapora, 6 on 22/3 (SMR). Karaka, 8 on 8/2 (KJF). Miranda, present from Oct to April; max 25 on 31/1; 1 left on 22/4 (BB, AH). BoP, Sulphur Pt, up to 6 during summer (KF); Kaituna 4 on 26/4 (PCML). Westshore, 5 on 1/12 (KVT). Manawatu est., present Nov-April, max 12 (LJD, JL&MM). Wairau est., 8 on 12/1 (WFC, CM). Invercargill est., 2 on 30/1 (MLB). Southland lagoons, 24 on 29/12 (RRS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *C. melanotos*

Tapora, 2 on 1/3; 3 on 22/3 (SMR, CM). Miranda, 1 on 31/1 (BB, AH), 3/3 (GE), 23/3 (BHS). Westshore, 1 on 2/2 (KVT). Manawatu est., 1 on 31/12; 2 on 2/1 (JL&MM).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *C. ferruginea*

Paua, 1 in Dec; up to 13 in Jan; 10 Feb-March; 6 in April and on 17/6 (ATE). Whangarei, 1 on 22/3 (MPK). Karaka, 2 on 9/12 (AH); 4 on 8/2 (KJF); 5 on 9/4 and still on 28/6 (GMHP). Miranda, c.20 on 7/10; 31 on 8/2 (BB, AH); 21 on 22/4; 14 on 10/5; c.25 on 3/5 (5 well-coloured, 5 quite pale) (AH). Manawatu est., present Oct-April, max 8 (LJD). Farewell Spit, 4 on 7/10 (WFC); 3 (2 red) on 7/4 (K&JVM, BR); 1 in mid-May (BDH). Nelson Haven, 1 for some weeks in Jan (JMH). Southland lagoons, 42 on 29/12 (RRS). Awarua Bay, 12 on 12/1 (MLB).

DUNLIN *C. alpina*

Kidd's Bay, Karaka, 1 still black-bellied and red-backed, feeding among Wrybills and Knots on 15/8 (BB).

RED-NECKED STINT *C. ruficollis*

Paua, 9 in March; 10 in April (ATE). Mangawhai, 1 on 1/12 (SMR). Karaka, 7+ on 27/9; 26 on 18/12; 33 on 24/3; 35 on 8/4;

23 on 31/5 and 15/6 (BB, AH, BRK), a record count of overwinterers; 16 on 28/6 (GMHP). Miranda, present 28/10-20/4; max 8 (ARL, BB, AH, RBS). Tauranga, 1 on 28/7 (PCML); 3 Nov-April (KF). Westshore, 1 on 1/12 (KVT). Manawatu est., recorded from 30/11; 4 on 25/3 and 15/6 (JL&MM, LJD). Farewell Spit, 11-14 in early Oct (WFC, JHS, BHS); 27 in mid-May (BDH; MDD, HAR). Grassmere, 19 on 17/1 (IS, CM, RBS). Southland lagoons, 53 on 29/12 (RRS). Awarua Bay, 8 on 12/1; Invercargill est., 43 on 19/1 (MLB).

SANDERLING *C. alba*

Farewell Spit, 1 early Oct (WFC, JAS, BHS); 3 in mid-May (BDH, MDD, HAR). Awarua Bay, 1 on 15/3 (MLB).

PIED STILT *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*

Paua, max 400 in June (ATE). Whangarei, 502 on 14/7; 368 on 14/11; 666 on 22/3 (MPK). North Shore, Shoal Bay, 3 late C4 nests in December (GMHP). Manukau, 740 on 4/11; 4768 on 15/6. FoT, 1963 on 25/11; 1713 on 8/7/80, rather late for a winter census. Manawatu est., max 270 on 3/5 (JL&MM). Southland lagoons, 597 on 29/12 (RRS).

BLACK STILT *H. novaezealandiae*

Whangarei Hr, 1 at Hewlett's Pt on 14/5 (RP). Maungaturoto, 1 smudgy in damp pasture during Aug (AHG). Mangere airport, 1 all black on 20/5 (BG). FoT, 1 at Miranda on 22/2 (LS) and 22/3 (RBS) & near Waitakaruru at mid-winter (BB). Nelson Haven, 1 smudgy on 6/9 (JMH). Whanganui Inlet, 1 on 1/4 and over winter (KLO). L. Ellesmere, 1 at least 18/11 to 28/11 (GFO'D).

SOUTHERN GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*

S.E. Island, trios & pairs at nests, Sept-Oct; first egg noted on 1/10 (TGL). Codfish I., 1 at Sealers' Bay on 3/11 (EC).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Muriwai, 2 chasing Caspian Tern on 5/12 (CM). Karaka, 1 off Kidd's Bay on 9/4 (AH). Miranda, 1 off Taramaire on 17/5 (BB, SMR, CM).

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Bay of Islands, common Dec-Jan; 6 at Marsden Pt on 19/4 (TGL). Auckland isthmus, numerous sightings at the usual places. Tukituki est., 1 on 18/4 (KVT). Foxton Beach, present Dec-May, max 4 on 23/2 (JL&MM).

BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus dominicanus*

Desert Rd, summit tarn 23/1, 80+ including c.50 brownies, evidently locally bred (BB, KB, RBS).

RED-BILLED GULL *Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*

Off Three Kings on 26/1, c.20 following ship; last left when 72 miles W (NGC). Cuvier I., c.450 nests in late Nov; more than half soon abandoned (TGL). Tukituki est., c.100 on 3/5 (KVT). Farewell Spit, c.200 on terminal shellbanks, early Oct (JHS). Grassmere, 186 nests; low breeding success, 19/1 (PJ). S.E. Island, a few dozen birds, unworried by skuas; no eggs by 20/10 (TGL).

BLACK-BILLED GULL *Larus bulleri*

Bayly's Beach, 1 with Red-billed, 1/6-22/6 (WJC). FoT, 69 on 25/11. The few pairs which nested at Taramaire, again failed. Only 82, most of which were at Kaiaua, on winter census. (RBS, BB). BoP, Tarawera est., 20 on 22/7 (PCML). Kawhia, 2 on 29/6 (BHS). H.B., Wairoa est., c.250 in mid-Oct; in Nov the birds dispersed without nesting (GAF). Tukituki est., c.300 on 3/5; L. Poukawa, c.120 on 7/10 (KVT). L. Wairarapa, 20 at N end on 24/1; L. Horowhenua, c.40 on 26/4 (BDH). Farewell Spit, only 2, early Oct '79 (JHS). St. Arnaud, 3 back on 30/9; local breeding success low. Upper Buller R., 75-80 nests; 1 juv left on 2/3 & 19/4 (PJ). Kaikoura, Kowhai est., first eggs before 29/10; colony deserted by 6/12, Kahutara est., 900 on 3/8 (BE). Benmore, 2 on 27/12 (LJD). Manapouri, raft of 1000+ on 9/1 (KM). Eglinton, c.400 ad and 400 chicks on 15/11 (K&JVM).

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Mangere airport, 1 on 4/3 (BG). Westshore, 1 from 6/12 to 26/1 when it was harassed by Welcome Swallows (KVT). Manawatu est., 1 from 4 to 27/4 (JL&MM). Waimea est., 1 on 22/1 (KLO). Avondale, Aparima R., 1 on 14/6 (PMM, OJL).

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

S. Kaipara Hds, Waionui lagoon, 1 on 5/3 (SMR). Tabora, 1 on 22/3 (AH, CM). Jordans-Oyster Pt, 1 on 1/3 (AH, NR).

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

Strong colonies at Kaipara Heads and Mangawhai reared many young. Manukau, 74 on 4/11; 165 on 15/6. FoT, 25 on 25/11; 142 on 8/7 (BB, SMR). Upper Waitemata, 2 isolated prs raised young (GMHP). Mataitai, 58 on 23/3 (AJG). Waikato est., c.40 prs on 7/10 and 12 nests with eggs; c.160 birds present on 22/11 (AH, TRH). Cuvier I., 1 on 26/7 (TGL). BoP, Sulphur Pt, 28 on 28/7; Tarawera est., 6 on 4/8; 12 on 7/6 (PCML). H.B., Westshore, 16 on 2/2 (KVT). Foxton Beach, max 15 in July & April (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, c.120 present, c.40 nests with eggs washed out on 7/10 (JAS, BHS); only c.10 in mid-May (BDH). Nelson boulder bank, 2 prs nesting on 6/11, 1 with 2 chicks, 1 with 2 eggs (JMH). Westport, Orowaiti lagoon, 5 on 14/7 (CSL). Greymouth and Blaketown, scarce (AVB). Wilberforce R., over 100 km inland, pr with nest near Black-back colony, Nov '78 (CFO'D). Benmore, 2 on 27/2 (LJD). Oreti est., 55 nests on 18/11 (MLB).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN *Sterna albostrata*

BoP, Tarawera est., first arrived 2 on 30/3; 26 on 21/5; c.48 in mid-May (PCML, WJC). H.B., 2 on 26/4; elaborate flying display, ? pair formation (KVT); Ngaruroro est., 32 on 17/5 (JLCS). Manawatu est., 2 on 14/6 (JL&MM). Farewell Spit, c.80 in mid-May (BDH). Moutere est., 26 on 18/2 (JMH); 10 on 7/5 (BE). Motueka est., c.40 hawking insects on 25/8; 3 on 7/2 (KLO). Nelson Haven, 1 on 18/4 almost in breeding dress; 4 (1 juv) on 22/4 (JMH). Wairau est.-Grassmere, very few in mid-Jan (RBS). Seddon, 6 on 9/4, day before heavy rain (TJT). L. Benmore, 27 on 27/12 (LJD). Cass R., common on 11/11 (P&KM). A distressing lack of reports from Wellington coast and much of South Island.

FAIRY TERN *S. nereis*

Mangawhai, max 5 on 21/10, nest C2 on 1/12; S. Kaipara Hds, 3 on 5/12; Waionui Inlet, 1 on 5/3 (SMR). Port Waikato, 2 on 6/1 small yellow-billed terns, flying as a pair and mobbing a juv. Black-back (AH). BoP, Sulphur Pt island, 2 around most of the year; 15/11, 1 pr mobbing visitors near colony of White-fronted Terns; 23/2, 2 *nereis* & 1 small tern with whitish head begging for food; possibly 1 Fairy chick was reared under umbrella of White-fronted Terns (KF).

LITTLE TERN *S. albigrons*

Paua, 1, Dec/March (ATE). Whangarei Hr, 5 on 10/11; 2 on 22/3 (MPK). Manukau, 1 on 27/9, some present all summer, max 12 on 21/11 & 16/3 (AH, CM, KJF). Waikato est., 10 on 6/3 (AH). FoT, apparently a poor year, max 5 (BB). Tauranga, 2-4 all summer, usually with *nereis* in attendance; 1 in breeding dress with typically coloured beak on 7/3 (KF). Manawatu est., 1 from 17/2 to 25/3 (LJD). Moutere est., 3 on 8/12; 7 on 22/1 and 19/2; 3 on 10/3; Motueka sandspit, 2 on 7/5; 1 on 13/5 (JMH, KLO, BE). Aramoana, 1 on 1/1 (K&JVM, RB). Invercargill est., 1 on 18/11; 2 on 30/1 (MLB).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN *S. striata*

Mangawhai, 20 (no juv) on 16/3; S. Kaipara Hds, 1000 on 17/11 & 22/12, a few chicks (SMR). Manukau & FoT, a poor breeding season (RBS). Waikato est., 215 on 11/5 (DAL, DMW). Sulphur Pt, large colony bred successfully (KF); of c.85 resting on sand island on 31/1, c.54 were juv (BHS). Tukituki est., c.40 on 18/4 (KVT). Farewell Spit, c.200 feeding; no eggs on 8/10 (JHS, BHS). Oreti est., 30 nests on 18/11 (MLB). S.E. Island, 100+ Oct (TGL).

SOOTY TERN *S. fuscata*

Bayly's Beach, imm. dead on 30/1 (WJC). Muriwai, N of Woodhill, one on 5/3 watched feeding over the breakers with c.50 White-fronted Terns (AH, SMR); 1 also on 9/3 (NR, SP). Later 3 found dead.

GREY TERNLET *Procelsterna cerulea*

Muriwai, 1 ashore dead in March (SMR).

NEW ZEALAND PIGEON *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

Clevedon, attracted by guava tree; first hopeful visit on 12/4; 6 in rivalry; never more than three in tree at one time (AJG). Maungatautari, declining as White-backed Magpies increase (PCML). Gowan R., 9 in one tree 25/10 (PJ). Christchurch, up to 8 in well-berried hollies, July-Sept (SCS). Banks Pen., Price's Valley, c.20 in kahikatea on 14/4 (R&GPG). Mt Aspiring homestead, eating leaf-buds and catkins of willows, 6/10 (PC). L. Matheson, 11 feeding on clover, 31/12 (CSL). Andrew Burn, 4 on 8/2, eating pigeonwood fruits (K&JVM).

WHITE COCKATOO *Cacatua galerita*

Karioitahi, c.50 in clump of *C. macrocarpa* on 25/5; present for some weeks (DAL). Onewhero, 13 on 16/2 (LS).

KAKA Nestor meridionalis

Totatariki, 1 in bush remnant on 16/11, feeding on green fruit of kohekohe (WJC). Whangarei Hds, several reports: 5 at Reotahi; 1 feeding on erythrina chased by Tui (CWD). Great Barrier, quite numerous. Cuvier I., several Oct-Dec, but no nests found (TGL). Warkworth, occasional visitor in autumn and winter, mobbed by Rosellas and Mynas (WMH). Shakespeare R.P., 1 on 8/2 (DWW). Auckland suburbs, casual visitor; Papakura, Red Hill, 1 Sept-Oct (BB). Waikaremoana, only 2 heard on 21/10 (PCML). Gisborne, 1 in suburban plantation on 13/5 (AB). Hangaroa headwaters, common on 12/3 (EJJ). Tararuas, 1 Smiths Creek on 16/3; 1 Marchant Ridge 4/8 (MD). St. Arnaud, 5 in one tree on 5/10 (PJ). Crushington, 7 on 24/11 (CSL). Routeburn Track, 2 on 26/4 (RW). Manapouri, 5 near power station on 6/1 (CM).

KEA N. notabilis

S. Westland, Quail Flat, upper Mueller, 65 on 20/6/79. Headwaters S. Young R., 16 on 9/5 (PC).

EASTERN ROSELLA Platycercus eximius

Continues to spread. Te Kuiti, prs feeding on ragwort flower-heads in March (R&GPG). Sightings in Tararuas and at Paekakariki (MD.)

RED-CROWNED PARAKEET Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae

Reported in Northland from Mangamuka (DV); Opuawhanga (JFS); Waioitira (TGL). S. Westland, present in cutover forest (CFO'D). S.E. Island, abundant, often feeding, Sept-Oct on shoots of *Muehlenbeckia* (TGL).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET Cyanoramphus auriceps

Cuvier I., 2 on 26/8 (TGL). L. Heron, pr present all summer among willows; Douglas fir and Corsican pine (CFO'D). Resolution I., 2 on 10/5; Coal Island, 1 on 10/9 (K&JVM). Stewart I., present in low manuka, Freshwater Flats (CFO'D).

SHINING CUCKOO Chrysococcyx lucidus

Kohukohu, group of 12 playing in erythrinus in Feb (KB). Kerikeri, 1 killed at window in March (ATE). Warkworth, first song 13/9 (WMH). Clevedon, first song 30/9; by 10/10, several whistling by day and night (AJG). Nelson, up to 6 visiting plum tree in March every year to feed on larvae of sawfly (Tenthredinidae), considered unpalatable to other birds (CFO'D). Kaikoura, 1 fed by Riro on 13/2 (BE). Arahura Valley, an early arriver heard on 4/8 (CSL). Waihola, 1 on 9/9 (MLB).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO Eudynamys taitensis

Karatia, 1 late Jan (MPK). Opuawhanga, heard daily 2/3-26/3 (JFS). Miranda coast, 1 on 24/2; Cuvier I., at least 1, Nov-Dec (TGL), 1 mid-Feb (JAF). Otarewainuku, c.8 calling loudly, displaying, flying from tree to tree late in afternoon (JHS, BHS). Hopuruahine landing, 1 on 21/10 (PCML). Boddytown, 1 calling for 40 min on 26/1; 1 on 9/2 (CSL). Christchurch, 1 in greengage tree on 6/11 (R&GPG). West Plains, an early bird on 23/9 (PMM, OJL).

MOREPORK *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Crushington, taking moths in seven swoops over camp fire (CSL). L. Manapouri, pr feeding mouse to young on sunny afternoon, 14/1. Dusky Sound, Shag I., 1 on 12/1 (KM). Codfish I., heard frequently Oct-Nov (EC).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Ward, frequently calling in Aug (TJT). Reported from Delaware Bay (KLO), Motueka (BE), Boddytown (CSL).

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT *Chaetura caudacuta*

Cuvier I., 9+ over top of island on 11/12 apparently hawking insects and uttering high pitched twittering sounds (TGL, CRV). Muriwai, 1 picked up dead in March (SMR).

NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER *Halcyon sancta vagans*

Ward, commoner than usual during winter '80 (TJT). Nelson Lakes, Bull Creek, pr at 1370 m in May (CFO'D). Greymouth, relatively common; often seen to rob starlings of worms (CSL). L. Heron, present 27/7 (CFO'D). Benmore, 1 on 27/12 (LJD). Alexandra, 1 along Clutha R. for some days in June. Cameron Flat, Makarora, pr perhaps nesting on 4/1 (PC). Bligh Sound, 1 on 13/3 (KM).

KOOKABURRA *Dacelo gigas*

Two records, well away from the limits of its normally restricted range in Northland. Raglan, 5/1, one on a rock on the shore following westerly storm (MAB). Hastings, one on 13/1 (JL).

ROCK WREN *Xenicus gilviventris*

Mt Cobb, 2 near summit on 12/4 (JB). Rees Valley, 27-30/12/78, pr feeding young; 4 other pairs. Wilkin, pr with well-grown youngster on 25/1 (PC). McKinnon Pass, near summit, pr feeding unconcernedly on 16/12 (SG). Homer Tunnel, 2 near E end on 4/1 (CM).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Mt Luxmore, 1 singing at 975 m on 16/1 (KM).

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo tahitica neoxena*

Poor Knights and Cuvier I., established and breeding (JMcC, TGL). Great Barrier, Whangaparapara, 2 on 22/10; but more have been reported; 29/10 nest ready under wharf (AJG). Central Auckland, has bred successfully, 3 nestlings on 12/10; 5 on 11/12 (SMR). BoP, Papamoa, pr feeding young on 29/9; flock 50+ on 29/6. Tarawera est., c.50, April-May (PCML). H.B., Westshore, c.110 on 7/7 (KVT). Westland, well established throughout (CSL). Kaikoura, L. Rotoiti, 4 on 12/1 (LJD). St Anne's Lagoon, 30+ on 25/12 (TJT). Waimakariri headwaters, 2 on 5/4 (JR). Ashburton lakes, 1 seen at 825 m Nov '79 (CFO'D). Te Anau, 10 sightings of 1-5 birds between 20/3 and 29/6 (JVM).

NEW ZEALAND PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Dargaville west coast, common but seldom inland (WJC). S. of Waitotira, thinly distributed in the hills in July; pr Waiwera ponds on 4/8. Claris airstrip on Great Barrier, several (TGL). S. Kaipara Hds, 3 on 5/3 (SMR). Jordans, 3 on 1/3 (NR). BoP lowlands,

rare; Te Whaiti-Ruatahuna, common among fern and scrub where bush has been removed (PCML). H.B., Tukituki R., 1 on 19/8; Te Mata Peak, 1 on 28/10; Taupo Rd, 4 on 15/12; Maraetotara, c.12 on 25/4 (KVT). Foxton Beach, 2 on 21/7 (JL&MM). Whangamoa est., 2 on 11/1 (KLO). St Arnaud, 2 at 5300 ft on 3/2; Seaward Kaikouras, 3 at 5200 ft on 16/12 (BE). Mt Fyffe, 3 on tops above bushline (LJD).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Dargaville, broken song in mid-April (WJC). Cuvier I., a few pairs; some calling but no song in mid-Feb (RBS); males singing strongly by 27/7 (TGL). S.E. Island, common and in good voice Oct '79 (TGL).

FERNBIRD *Bowdleria punctata*

Rangaunu Bay, Okatakata I., plentiful (MH). Puhipuhi, 6 responding to taped calls on 25/3 (JFS). Dargaville coast and Pouto pen., widespread but retreating as swamps are drained. Whangarei, found in gullies behind Parahaki (WJC). Oyster Pt, 1 on 1/3 (TRH). Waioneke, 10 on 8/2 (DWW). Coromandel, heard at Preece's Pt on 5/5 (AJG). Tairua, 2 on 4/4 (DGB). Matata, numerous. Whakarewarewa F.P., present in many patches of swamp, even beside main road (PCML). Kawhia, in most suitable habitats, e.g. fringe of L. Taharoa (JHS, BHS). Mangapehi (R&GPG). Waiouru, Nov '79, 1 behind rifle range singing during firing (FT). Oronui R., seen 19/7 (EJJ). Tasman and Golden Bay, located in most suitable habitats (JMH, KLO, BE). Westland lowlands, widespread (CSL).

BROWN CREEPER *Finschia novaeseelandiae*

Ure (Waima) Valley, present in gullies (TJT, RBS). Lower Seaward Kaikouras (BE). Crushington, 1 on 24/11 (CSL). Kelsey's Bush, small flock on 10/11 (P&KM).

WHITEHEAD *Mohoua albigilla*

Green Lake, 5 squeak-bottled on 21/5; Whareorino S.F., 10 on 19/4 (JHS, BHS). Present in Pureora (R&GPG).

FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Cuvier I., small flocks (12+) hawking insects in sheltered gullies on dull days (TGL); commonly in attendance on families of foraging Saddlebacks in Feb (RBS). Gisborne, taking minute insects flying up from ground but ignoring larger insects, on 14/8 (AB). Wellington, Port Howard, a pair of Blacks on 27/4; later 3 (GSD).

CHATHAM ISLANDS FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa penitus*

A few pairs at Port Hutt, 22/10. S.E. Island, scarce; loud song at dawn and dusk; otherwise seldom heard, Sept-Oct (TGL).

PIED TIT *Petroica macrocephala toitoi*

Dargaville forest remnants, e.g. Tutamoe, persisting (WJC). Gisborne, on 7/8, 1 visited a Wainui nursery (AB).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT *P.m. macrocephala*

Westland, widely recorded (CSL). Te Anau, occurs in lakeshore scrub and *P. radiata* (K&JVM).

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN *Miro australis longipes*

6 near Raurimu Spiral on 7/12 (JHS, BHS). Tararuas, mid, Waiohine hut, 2 on 5/4 (MD).

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN *M. a. australis*

Reports from Seaward Kaikouras (BE). Fiordland N.P., Borland Burn (EC); Hollyford valley, singles seen near McKerrow and Hokuri huts (RB); Routeburn track, 2 at Mackenzie hut on 26/4 (RW).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

First song, Auckland on 3/4 (RBS). Christchurch on 6/5 (R&GPG).

BLACKBIRD *T. merula*

First song, Christchurch on 30/6 (R&GPG). S.E. Island, capturing and eating skinks, which are common, Sept-Oct (TGL).

SILVEREYE *Zosterops lateralis*

Papakura, 4.45 a.m. on 30/9, pitch black; what seemed to be a flock calling and moving noisily through trees (AH). Gisborne, 14/8, taking larger insects in typical flycatcher manner (AB). Marlborough, L. Rotoiti, flocking by 9/2; Blenheim, first flock for winter in garden on 29/5 (PJ). Ward, Silvereye chased by Bellbird and both crashed into window; a pause and the chase continued, 9/4; 100-200 in rape paddock at midwinter (TJT). Riwaka, eating pate berries on 13/4; Fernleigh, 2 eating spiders at nest of nursery spider on 24/1; Oaru, 1 eating mahoe berries on 17/2 (BE). S. Westland at c.2500 ft on 23/1 feeding on ripe fruits of *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*; Mt Aspiring homestead on 6/10, feeding on catkins of pussy willows (PC).

STITCHBIRD *Notiomystis cincta*

Little Barrier, numerous in April. All three nectar-feeders attracted to fruiting mapou; also visiting orchard to lick ripening figs (TGL).

BELLBIRD *Anthornis melanura*

Coromandel, Preece's Pt, heard and seen on 5/5 (AJG). Gisborne noticeable increase in the suburbs (AB). Hatepe, common and vocal 22/12 to 5/1 (WAW). Turangi, 4 feeding among flowers of *Banksia collina* (PCML). St Arnaud, collecting dried grass on 26/12 and 13/1 (PJ). Hunderlees, many in flowering kowhais on 22/8, by far outnumbering Tuis (BE). Codfish I., abundant, vocal and aggressive in flowering rata, Oct-Nov (EC).

TUI *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

Whangamumu, common in manuka scrub on 29/12 (TGL). Mahurangi, 50+ very noisy and excited among profusely flowering kowhais on 8/9 (RBS). Waitakare survey, only 20 on 22/9 (SMR). St. Arnaud, nest at 12 ft in manuka raided by stoat which came back again on 18/11 (PJ). Fiordland, Hidden Lakes, 3 on rata on 23/1 (KM). Codfish I., competed with Bellbirds at twilight song (EC). S.E. Island, flocks of 10-12, Sept-Oct, on flowering flax (TGL).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Cuvier I., 1 singing on 22/11 (TGL). Kawhia, 1 singing, both

morning and evening on 18/8 (RBS). Ward, first song on 28/8 from a lightly coloured cock with tail almost white (TJT). Codfish I., 1 singing on 2/11 (KM).

CIRL BUNTING *E. cirrus*

Carterton, male feeding on lawn among House Sparrows on 13/10 (CL). Ward, 10 sheltering from rain on 25/8. Several males calling consistently from perches 26-28/8; 4 in a loose sort of squabble; 1 pr returning to willows where female was giving calls similar to those made by males when they call from a perch (TJT). Atawhai, 1 on 21/1, singing repeatedly (JMH, BB, RBS). Barnicoat Range, present April-May; Kaikoura, up to 4, July-Oct (BE). Waiau township, pr frequented house section, Sept-Oct (JC). Waikuku beach, 2 prs on 27/8 (R&GPG).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Gisborne, first territorial song 15/8 (AB). Mt Cobb, 2 at 5600 ft on 12/4 (JB). S.E. Island, rather rare (TGL).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Dargaville west coast, more noticeable in winter and spring, when they are in flocks (WJC). Little Barrier, 50+ on 5/4 (BB). Miranda, hundreds in salicornia 18/5; Karaka, lower saline paddock 'a moving mass' on 4/5 (BHS); a favourite autumn habitat often shared with Banded Dotterels (RBS). Dusky Sound, Shag I., 4 on 12/5 (KM). S.E. Island, rare (TGL).

GOLDFINCH *C. carduelis*

Cuvier, several on 22/11 (TGL). Routeburn, 3 at 2200 ft on 13/4; Shovel Flat, at 1700 ft, 4 on 4/7 feeding on heads of browntop (PC). Resolution I., flocks in shore scrub on 9/5 (KM).

REDPOLL *C. flammea*

Dargaville west coast, more noticeable in summer (WJC). Cuvier I., 1 on 25/11. S.E. Island, common (TGL).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Te Kawa, pr with mobile nest on battery-box of tractor (JHS). BoP, Motuotau (Rabbit I.), huge roost, hundreds of thousands (PCML). Chatham Is, at dusk thousands fly from Pitt I. across the strait to roost on S.E. Island, and soon after daybreak most return to Pitt (TGL, RBS).

NORTH ISLAND SADDLEBACK *Philesturnus carunculatus rufusater*

Cuvier I., 30 nests found Nov-Dec; first chicks on 30/11 (TGL). Later in Feb, population estimated at 700+ (EGT, CRV). Stanley I., 20 on 11/12, 14 being unbanded and locally bred (TGL, CRV).

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO *Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*

Kawhia, Hauturu N, 1 feeding on ground and 1 calling from next ridge (RM). 1 pr with 1 juv and 2 other birds, end of Feb, Whareorino S.F. 1 heard on 19/4 (JHS, BHS, SG).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Foxton, 1 on 1/6 (JL & MM). Singles reported from Kaikoura, Oaro, Hurunui, St Anne's Lagoon, Waiaua (BE, TJT).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE *G. t. hypoleuca*

S. Auckland and BoP, gaining ground. Maungatautari, some evidence that magpies are attacking N.Z. Pigeons (PCML). Taramakau, Rotomano, Matai, present 20 years; slow to increase (CSL). Te Anau, max. 3 on 15/12 (JVM). Bannockburn, 15 on 17/2 (MLB). Southland, scattered but regular sightings. Invercargill airport, 2 on 15/5 (PMM, OJL).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Te Poi, E of Matamata, 4 in July (ARL). Appleby, 3 sightings between 11/7 and 20/12 (KLO). Ward, 1, Sept-Nov (TJT). Kaikoura, up to 15, 21/6-7/12 (BE). Pebbly Hills, 2 with magpies on 18/3 (PMM, OJL).



SHORT NOTES

A MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL IN BREEDING PLUMAGE

The Mongolian Dotterel (*Charadrius mongolus*) is well known in New Zealand as a difficult species to identify with confidence. Too few reach New Zealand annually for many observers to learn not to be confused by some of the deceptive variants of the Banded Dotterel (*C. bicinctus*) out of breeding plumage.

Not so with a bird we saw at Farewell Spit on 16 May 1980. Seen at first from a distance as it fed in shallow water near a Banded Dotterel, it looked rather like a Knot (*Calidris canutus*) in oddly coloured breeding plumage. Seen closely by telescope, it gave a startling impression of rich reddish orange surrounding a striking pattern of black and white from face to chest. Field descriptions of the breeding plumage of the eastern races *C. m. mongolus* and *C. m. stegmanni* are few and mostly of birds seen in transit in partial plumage. Moreover, the painting in Plate 28 of *The new guide to the birds of New Zealand* (Falla *et al.* 1979), although generally accurate, is incorrect in several respects. Therefore, we give as full a description as we could take before the bird flew.

The bird was slightly larger and stood taller than the Banded Dotterel it was near. It had a broad black mask that extended from ear coverts to ear coverts across the face, enclosing the eyes, which did not stand out, and the base of the bill. Above and slightly to each side of the bill, a small sharply outlined white patch was set into the mask, the two patches separated by a narrow vertical black line, giving the bird a bizarre cross-eyed appearance.

Rich reddish orange extended broadly round the head above the black mask, down the sides of the neck, as a deep band across the chest, and back on to the flanks. In addition, the whole grey-brown upper surface seemed to be suffused with reddish orange.

A very narrow black line ran from the rear of the facial mask